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SMF#21

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)X2

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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5 AUG 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the President
(Mr. Rostow)

SUBJECT: Capability of the OXCART to Collect
Early Warning Intelligence in South
China

Dear Walt:

I understand you requested information on what the
use of OXCART would add to our capabilities to collect
intelligence on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I hope the attached paper
will be helpful to you in this connection.

SIGNED

Richard Helms

Attachment: BYE #0185-66/A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2007

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5 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Capability of the OXCART to Collect
Early Warning Intelligence in
South China

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In assessing the capabilities of these systems we have estimated the number of target looks they would be able to obtain within a given time span, that is the number of opportunities they would have to photograph one of [redacted]. By compiling the total number of target looks we have a measure of the frequency of target coverage which in turn is related directly to the level of [redacted] as we have noted above.

3. For the ninety day period beginning 15 September, we estimate the following number of target looks for each system:

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4. The OXCART is now ready for operational use and a unit of three aircraft could be committed for use over South China within a month after authorization for deployment. We estimate that, during a ninety day period, this system can provide coverage in addition to the coverage we estimate from presently committed assets, as follows:

OXCART

730 Target Looks

Based on an operational sortie rate of three per aircraft per month which we consider well within the capability of the system.

5. Taken together with estimated coverage provided by presently committed assets we have the following figures:

Total from presently committed assets

Total with OXCART

It is evident, therefore, that, based on our estimates, OXCART would increase our high resolution photographic coverage of key targets in South China

6.

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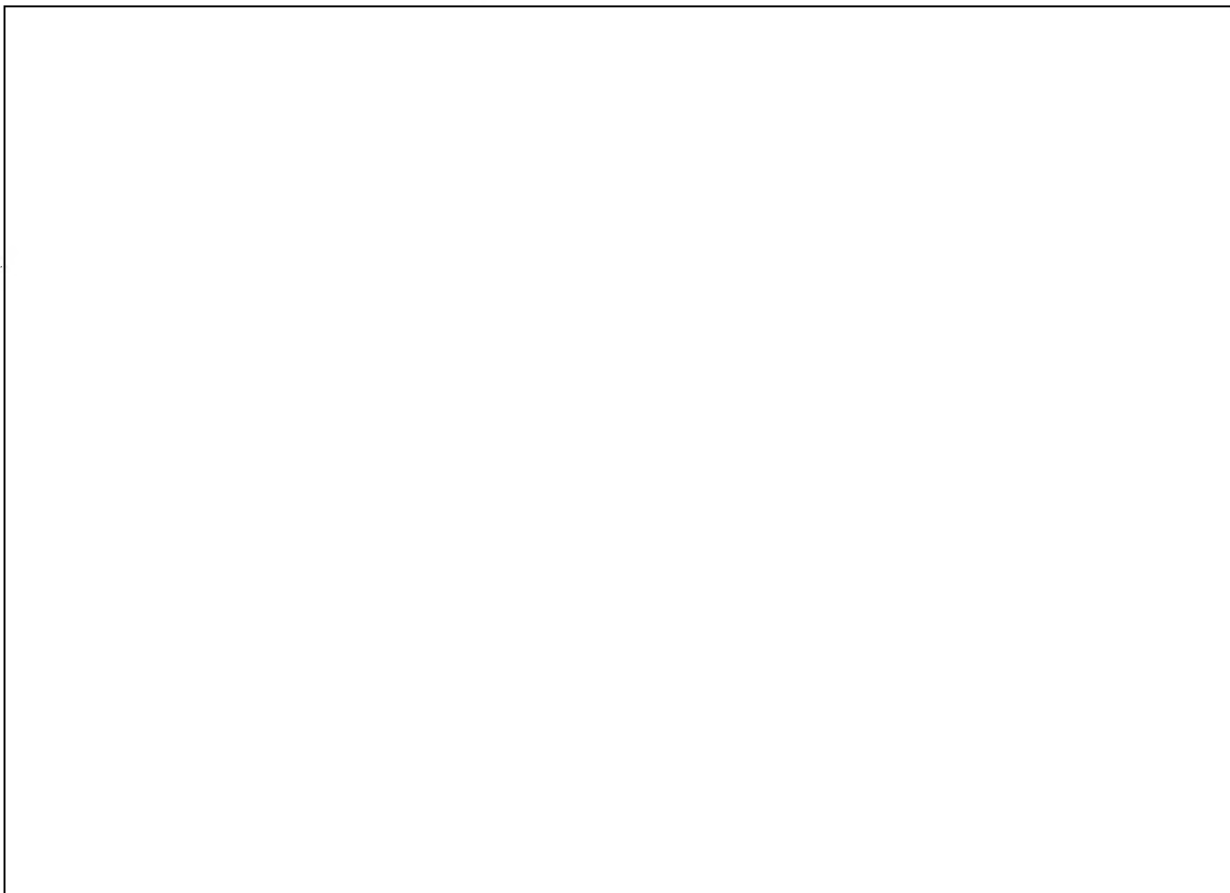
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